



ARTSTAMP

A Format in Motion

Manifest and Institutional Framework

Founded 2007

About Artstamp.dk

Artstamp.dk is an independent artistic platform founded in 2007 as an ongoing investigation of the postage stamp as a sovereign image surface. The project was founded by Sam Jedig in collaboration with Stalke Out of Space and examines how authority, representation, and circulation are embedded within one of the smallest and most regulated visual formats.

Artstamp.dk functions simultaneously as artwork, edition, and archive. The project adopts the formal language of official state-issued postage stamps — perforation, framing, typography, and portrait structure — while maintaining a clear conceptual and legal distance from governmental validity. It neither counterfeits nor replaces official issues, but works in parallel with the format as an inquiry into its meaning and authority.

Since 2009, Artstamp.dk has expanded through Guest Editions and collaborations, developing into a distributed yet coherent artistic field. More than 75 artists have contributed, reinforcing the stamp as a shared framework rather than an individual signature.

Artstamp.dk is not a commercial initiative but a long-term artistic structure dedicated to examining format, sovereignty, and circulation.

Historical Field

Artstamp.dk operates within a historical lineage of artistic practices engaging distribution and institutional structures. From the late 1950s onward, Mail Art demonstrated that circulation itself could function as an artistic method. The postal system became not merely a channel but a medium in its own right. Hierarchies were replaced by networks, and the artwork moved through infrastructure rather than remaining confined to exhibition spaces.

Later, artist stamps adopted the postage stamp format as an autonomous artistic territory. The miniature scale, perforation, and proportions were retained while content and authorship shifted. In doing so, the authority already embedded in the format was made visible. In 1957, Yves Klein introduced his

ultramarine stamp gesture into the postal field, highlighting the stamp as a regulated image institution. The gesture revealed how legitimacy and circulation intersect within a state-sanctioned miniature.

Mail Art showed that distribution can be the work, and artist stamps showed that the stamp can be the image. Artstamp.dk brings these developments together in a consistent investigation of the stamp as a sovereign miniature. The project does not simply use postal networks; it examines the authority embedded within the format itself.

Conceptual Framework

The postage stamp is a condensed state signature. Within a few square centimeters it carries value, territory, identity, and symbolic legitimacy. It circulates globally with built-in institutional approval and appears neutral, even though it is always the result of selection and authorization.

Artstamp.dk works through small and precise shifts within this regulated format. A word may be inserted into a portrait, a surface partially obscured, or a title subtly altered to change interpretation. The format remains recognizable, yet the slight deviation introduces a controlled instability in which recognition precedes doubt.

The project does not attack authority from outside. It mirrors the visual structure of official issuance while maintaining a clear distance from legal validity. The tension between familiarity and displacement produces reflection rather than confrontation.

Artstamp.dk operates within legal boundaries and makes no claim to postal validity. The format is preserved, but its authority is examined.

Distribution and Archive

Artstamp.dk exists in both physical and digital space. Each stamp functions as an object and as a documented image. Placement in public space, circulation through postal systems, and digital dissemination together form the work's extended field.

The project develops over time. Individual editions operate as distinct interventions, while the archive forms a long-term reflection on political, cultural, and institutional changes in the 21st century. The stamp itself is fragile and removable, yet documentation ensures continuity.

Through repetition and accumulation, the smallest state-regulated image surface becomes a sustained site of inquiry, where what circulates as a sign of authority simultaneously operates as a structure for critical observation.

Scope

Founded: 2007

Guest Editions launched: 2008

Contributors: 75+ artists

Format: Limited editions / distributed objects

Medium: Artist stamps / conceptual postage interventions

Status: Ongoing

Statement

Artstamp.dk does not seek to replace authority but to examine how authority is formed. The postage stamp remains a state signature, yet Artstamp.dk demonstrates that even a signature can be shifted.